3844

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
No. 3844/30
30. 3. 1930

March 30, 7.

Sir Everard D.R. Fraser, K.C.M.G.,
H.B.M's Consul-General,
Shanghai.

My dear Sir Everard, Confidential.

It has been ascertained that J. Rothman is in the habit of visiting certain prostitutes, proprietors of low class bars, coffee shops, etc. before whom he masquerades as a high official in the British Consular Service, and also of the Police, in which capacity he terrorises and offers his services to protect his victims in return, apparently, for a certain remuneration.

Rothman has in his possession a number of photographs of residents in the Settlement. These he is in the habit of exhibiting in order to show his authority as a Consular or Police official. A number of people in the Hongkew and Wayside districts, who have been threatened by him, are reluctant to come forward and make a statement against him which goes to show that he has influence over this class of people who evidently believe him to be what he professes.

In this connexion I have to state that Abramovitch, proprietor of the Concordia Bar, Woosung Road, has consulted the Police for advice regarding Rothman who has threatened to take his license away. These parties have had trouble over money matters.

Rothman's bad reputation is well known to various members of the Detective Branch, but it is difficult to bring the charges home to him, as his victims are afraind to lodge a complaint against him.

Yours sincerely,

Captain-Superintendent of Police.

C.P.I.
Have him looked after a
if he brings himself within
reach of the law he shows he
charged & the witnesses subpoenaed -

30/3/07.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

Hongkew Station.

March 30th 1917

REPORT ON one named "Rothman", British Subject.

Made by D.S.Schmidt. Forwarded by Chief Detective Ins.

Sir,

I most respectfully beg to report that in references to inquiries made re the above named person, I find that the man is in the habit of going round certain residents of the Settlement to wit: The lower class of Jews, Proprietors of low class Bars, Coffee Shops, Prostitutes, etc. before which he masquerades as a high Official in the British Consular service, also of the Police. By doing so he levies a form of Black-mail on these people, whom he is in the habit of terrorising, by offering his services as such Official to protect them, for which he is evidently paid a certain renumeration. He has in his possesion certain photographs of Residents of the Settlement, these he is in the habit of exhibiting to shew his authority as Consular or Police Official, or otherwise, as circumstances permit. He has to the best of my knowledge threatened a number of people in Hongkew and Wayside districts, these people are very reluctant to come forward and say anything against him, therefore this in its self will shew the power he has over this class of people, who evidently belive him to be what he professes.

One case in particular has been reported to me personally by one man named Abremovitch, proprietor of the Concordia Bar, Weesung Road, who came to the Hongkew Station for advice in the matter. He stated that this man Rothman had threatened to take his License away, the reason given being that the parties had, had certain trouble over some money matters.

These few facts will shew what a great hold this man has on

FILE NOT FOUND (CFIIV)

COPY FOR [illegible] COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL [illegible]
No. [illegible]
DATE 28 3 [illegible]

Tax Office,

Shanghai, March 27, 1917.

The Secretary.

Letter dated March 19 with enclosure from Mr. J. Rothman making certain allegations against Mr. D. Abramovitch the licensee of the Concordia Hotel, C.1538 Woosung Road.

Mr. Abramovitch has held a Municipal licence for a 2nd class tavern for many years. He has changed his Nationality several times and has been registered in the Italian, French and German Consulates.

Yesterday a notice appeared in the North China Daily News to the effect that he had renounced his German Nationality. I therefore sent and told him that he must get a fresh application signed by a Consul before his licence can be renewed.

I know nothing of the alleged violation of the licence conditions; this is of course a Police matter.

Appended is a note of the licences held by Mr. Abramovitch since 1906. I understand he is actually a Roumanian.

Commissioner of Taxes.

28/3.

FILE NOT FOUND (CFIIV)

38444

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
No. 38444
27. 3. 1917

March 2[illegible]. 7.

The Acting Secretary,
S.M.C.

D. Abramovitch.

With reference to J. Rothman's letter to you dated March 19, copy of which has been forwarded to me for comment, I have to state that enquiries go to show that Abramovitch sold a half share in his business to an American named Mrs. Mary George some months ago for $1,500.00. Although the money was paid they never entered into partnership, and are at present negotiating with a view to revoking the bargain.

Abramovitch admits that he has from time to time allowed sailors in uniform to sleep for a night in his hotel without entering their names in his book. He states that he was under the misapprehension that no entry was required unless the lodgers stayed for a day or more. Enquiries have failed to elicit any proof of the allegation that he harboured bad characters, knowingly or otherwise.

Abramovitch had trouble with his wife in 1910, but the allegation that she died on account of ill treatment at his hands is, so far as can be learned, without foundation. One of his three deceased children, to whom Rothman refers, died some years after her marriage to a Spaniard named Naftaly, so the statement that she succumbed to her father's ill treatment would appear to be doubtful.

Abramovitch claims that he ceased to be a protégé of the German Consulate of his own accord, but he refuses to give the reason.

There is a rumour current among the lower class Europeans of Hongkew that Rothman approached Abramovitch some time ago, and told him that China was about to break off diplomatic relations with Germany, and that German property in China would be confiscated. Being the owner of a piece of land in Yangtszepoo, Abramovitch became alarmed and cancelled his registration. He then requested Rothman to get the Belgian Consulate to protect him and promised to pay $25 in return for this service. Rothman demanded $50, but Abramovitch would not pay that sum. This seems to be the only explanation of Rothman's vindictive attitude towards him.

Everybody, who had had occasion to come in touch with Abramovitch, speaks well of him, and pays a tribute to his thrift and industry. He is beyond all doubt a Roumanian by birth, and considering that his only living child is married to a Frenchman, it is probable that his political leanings are with the Allies.

Captain-Superintendent of Police.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

CENTRAL POLICE *Station.*

26th March, *191 7.*

REPORT ON Rothman Denounces D. Abramovitch.

Made by D.S.Givens. *Forwarded by* Chief Detective Inspector.

Sir,

Enquiries go to show that Abramovitch sold a half share in his business to an American named Mrs. Mary George some months ago for $1,500.00. Although the money was paid, they never entered into partnership, and are at present negotiating with a view to crying off the bargain,

Abramovitch admits that he has from time to time allowed sailors in uniform to sleep for a night in his hotel without entering their names in his book. He states that he was under the misapprehension that no entry was required unless the lodgers stayed for a day or more.

Enquiries have failed to elicit any proof of the allegation that Abramovitch harboured bad characters, knowingly or otherwise. He had trouble with his wife in 1910, but the allegation that she died because of ill-treatement at his hands is, as far as can be learned, without foundation. One of his three deceased children, to whom Rothman refers, died some years after her marraige to a Spainard named Naftaly, so the statement that she succumbed to her father's ill-treatment is rather far fetched.

Abramovitch claims that he withdrew from the German Consulate of his own accord, but will not explain why.

There is a rumour current among the lower class Europeans of Hongkew that Rothman approached Abramovitch some time ago, and told him that China was about to break off diplomatic relations with ~~China~~ Germany, and that Germans' property would be confiscated. Being the owner of a piece of land in Yangtsepoo

Shanghai Municipal Police.

(2)

Station.

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REPORT ON

Made by *Forwarded by*

Abramovitch became alarmed, and cancelled his registration. He then requested Rothman to get the Belgian Consulate to protect him and promised to pay $25.00 in return for this service. Rothman demanded $50.00, but Abramovitch would not pay that sum. This seems to be the only explanation of Rothman's vindictive attitude towards him. Everybody, who has had occasion to come in touch with Abramovitch, speaks well of him, and pays a tribute to his thrift and industry. He is beyond all doubt a Roumanian by birth, and considering that his only living child is married to a Frenchman, it is likely that his political leanings are with the Allies.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T.H. Gruers

Detective Sergeant.

Chief Detective Inspector.

COPY FOR CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE
FOR COMMENT.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
No. 3744
DATE 22.3.17

F. 43, Wuchang Road,
Shanghai, March 19th, 1917.

N.O. Liddell, Esq.
Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Dear Sir,

I beg to draw to your attention the following facts:-

That I know man named D. Abramovitch keeping a second class tavern known as the Concordia Hotel at No. C 1538 Woosung Road, who was registered at the German Consulate just previous to the war, after having been struck off the French Register as an undesirable character, and previous to that was struck off the Italian Register. He was struck off the German register two days ago for misusing his Municipal license in connection with the Concordia Hotel. He has violated Clauses 7, 8 and 10 of the Conditions printed at the back of the forms of application for tavern license. For the purpose of renewing his license which has to be endorsed by a Consul, he has tried to claim protection at the various Consulates but was refused; he is now trying to claim Russian protection. I have notified the Russian authorities of this, and beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter addressed to the Russian Consul-General on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
J. Rothman.

C.P.
For enquiries & any comment.
22/3/17.

C O P Y.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE,

Shanghai, China, March 13, 1917.

Subject: GEORGE ABRAMOVITVH CONTROVERSY.

Messrs. Koenig & Ettinger,

1a, Jinkee Road,

Shanghai.

Gentlemen,

By direction of the Consul General and replying to your letter of this date, I have to inform you that repeated requests of Mrs. George for the approval of this Consulate General to support her application for a tavern license have been met with refusal for reasons given Mrs. George at the time of her applications. We are not prepared to alter our decision in the matter.

In regard to the present controversy between Mrs. George and Mr. Abramovitch, no official cognizance can be taken in the matter by this Consulate General. The request for the appointment of an official referee by this Consulate General must, therefore, be refused.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Geo. F. Bickford,

American Vice-Consul
In charge of General Office.

SHANGHAI,

March 13th., 1917.

I, the undersigned, a Turkish subject under German protection, being a party to a controversy with one Mrs. Mary George, an American citizen, do hereby appoint Mr. Koning to present me in an arbitration proceeding in order to settle the controversy above referred to and do hereby bind myself to abide by the decision arrived at by the referee appointed by Mrs. George and myself.

(Signed) D. Abramovitch.

WITNESSES -

(Signed) Charles A. Williams.

A. Ettinger.

March 19th., 1917.

His Excellency V. Grosse,

Russian Consul General,

Shanghai.

Sir:-

I beg to inform you that I have some information from a reliable source and beg to respectfully submit same to you. A man named D. Abramovitch keeping a second class tavern known as the Concordia Hotel, at CI538 Woosung Road, who was struck off the Register of the Italian Consulate and afterwards was struck off the French Register before the War and who became a German subject, has for some reason been struck off the German Register about two days ago. It is alleged that as he is an undesirable character, he is not fit to have his license renewed for the Concordia Hotel, also for violating the Municipal Regulations. Now as he is desirous of having this license renewed and not being able to have this done without the assistance of an allied Consul, it is his intention to get a Russian gentleman to prove his indentity as a Roumanian, and so become a Russian protegee.

I beg to state further that the above mentioned D. Abramovitch wrote on the Ist March last to the French Consul General in French, written by Mr. Ettinger, beseeching the French authorities to permit him becoming a French protegee again, but his request was refused. His motive for doing this is not one of loyalty, but merely to suit his own ends, namely to get an allied Consul to endorse the renewal of his license.

About two years ago he threw his wife out of his house, as she had no means of support, and being stranded for 8 months became ill, and finally succumbed and died, after being married to this man for thirty years, with 4 children, 3 of which died through ill treatment.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

J. Rothman